

REMARKS

Claims 7-24 are pending in the current application. Claims 7, 15, 19 and 22-24 are independent claims.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 7, 15 and 19 stand rejected to because of minor informalities. Applicant respectfully submits to the Examiner that the minor informalities have been eliminated by this Amendment. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 7-10, 15, 19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § as allegedly anticipated by Sen and Levenson. Although Applicants do not admit that Sen and Levenson are relevant to any of the rejected claims, Applicants attach a Rule 1.131 Declaration and Exhibit A to antedate Levenson, thereby removing Levenson as prior art, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, an indication that each of the pending claims (7-10, 15, 19 and 22-24) are allowable is kindly requested.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Levenson in view of Sen and Packer. In light of Applicant's Declaration, Levenson is removed as prior art, and therefore the rejection is now moot. Similarly, with regard to claim 14, rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Levenson in view of Sen and Riihinen, this rejection is also moot in view of Levenson being removed as prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of each of these rejections and allowance of each of the pending claims 1-24 is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 7-24 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

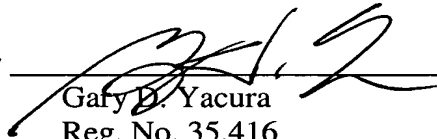
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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